World Bank loan for Community Forest Management

3569. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has extended loan to the Andhra Pradesh for taking up Community Forest Management Programme;

(b) if so, the area to be covered, district-wise; and

(c) the target for completion of the work?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Environmental clearance to CRPF firing range

3570. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Reserve Police Force has finalised design plans for a 253 acre field firing range near Bannerghatta National Park near Bangalore;

(b) whether it is a fact that the area identified for the firing range comes under the Forests Department;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has requested the Union Government not to give clearance to the proposed project;

(d) whether the State Government has also agreed to provide alternative land for the purpose; and

(e) if so, whether Government have given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Karnataka, adverting to a news item, has informed the Ministry that Central Reserve Police Force has finalised design plans for a field firing range near Bannerghatta National Park and has sent its proposal to the Union Home Ministry for approval. It has also been reported that the Central Reserve Police Force has acquired 253 acres of land in 1995 at a cost of Rs. 75.90 lakhs from Government of Karnataka.

The said area forms part of Survey Nos. 65 and 75 of Taralu village, Uttarhalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, which was handed over to the Forest Department by the Revenue Department on 19.5.1995 as per Notification No. RD 370 / LGE 93 dated 8.6.1994. This area falls within a radius of one kilometer around the boundary of the Bannerghatta National Park, which is reserved as "Safe Zone" for protecting the wildlife. The Forest Department, Karnataka and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has requested the State as well as the Union Home Ministry to cancel the allotment to the Central Reserve Police Force for firing range keeping in view the conservation of natural resources. The Ministry has also taken up the issue with the Director General, Central Reserve Police Force with a request to develop the firing range at some other location away from the wildlife habitat.

(e) The Ministry has not received any proposal for forestry or environment clearance of this project from the State Government/project authorities.

White tigers in Delhi Zoo

3571. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the white tigers born last year in Delhi Zoo is dead;

(b) if so, the reasons for its death; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure increase of white tigers in Delhi Zoo?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Three white tiger cubs born on 16th June, 2000 died on 20.6.2000, 22.6.2000 and 10.7.2000 respectively. The mother disowned the cubs and stopped feeding. All efforts were made to save the cubs by hand rearing in the zoo hospital. However, all the three cubs developed various complications and died on the dates mentioned above. Measures to ensure conservation of white tigers in Delhi Zoo include improved upkeep and better health care of animals.

Untidy maintenance of Sibpur Botanical Garden

3572. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sibpur Botanical Garden is being maintained in a very untidy way; and